

A Prickwillow Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Many of these stories were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014. They are supplemented by some selections 'From our Old Files' published in the Cambridge Independent Press and other notes.

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbooks' of which this is a small section is published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

1900 06 28

A delegation from Prickwillow appeared before Ely Urban District Council. Rev Kingdon asked for a road to be made from the bridge to the second Drove. It was extremely bad and one of their worst drives. There were a considerable number of children who lived along the bank and they should be able to get to school in some sort of comfort. With regard to vehicular traffic, in some seasons of the year it was absolutely impossible to get along.

1900 08 23

An inquest was held on the body of a child found drowned at Prickwillow. A seven-year old girl said her brother was playing near the drain, which runs past their house. He was going across the narrow slip running between the drain and the bridge, underneath which was a tunnel. She saw him slip head-first into the water, which splashed over her. The body was recovered from the tunnel after 50 minutes. The jury recommended that a grating should be placed at the entrance to the tunnel preventing such fatalities.

1903 05 24

A meeting of Nonconformists to protest against the Education Act was held in Mr Goat's field at Prickwillow. The vicar, Rev C.D. Kingdon, who had ridden into the field on a horse, was asked to take some active part in the meeting but replied that he 'did not take part in politics'. The Rev J.A. Cheesman said he was a Constitutionalist from the crown of his head to the sole of his foot; they could imprison him, take his goods and destroy his body but they would not compel him to be disloyal to his conscience. The Nonconformists of that village would be pleased to receive in their schoolroom between 9 and 9.30 in the morning any children whose parents would like them to profit by good, sound unsectarian teaching.

1903 10 01

Sir – being the parties responsible for the payment of the rates on the Baptist Chapel House, Prickwillow, we decided to refuse payment of the new Education rate. We sent a postal order for the remainder of the poor rate and directed the collector to take what steps the law permitted to obtain the balance. Now we find some 'friend' unknown has paid that balance for us and deprived us of the opportunity of making the public protest we desired against the injustice of the new rate. We do not appreciate this 'kindness' but protest against it as a piece of uncalled-for and unwarranted interference – The Trustees of Prickwillow Baptist Church

1903 10 02

There has been speculation at Ely as to the identity of the unknown person who paid the education part of Mr Cragg's rate and thus prevented his appearance before the magistrates and also a Nonconformist demonstration. Now it appears the Prickwillow Baptists have been treated in a similar fashion. When Mr H. Drake of Sutton came before the magistrates there were very few nonconformists in court as they were not aware the case was coming forward. There will be much more heard of passive resistance after the next rate has been levied.

1905 08 26

In 1901 there was a curate at Prickwillow named John Etheridge who created a very favourable opinion but whose stay was short as it was discovered he had been appointed upon forged credentials. He was arrested at a garden party at Liverpool and sentenced to imprisonment. He is now in custody in the village of Catskill, New York State for obtaining money by false pretences 05 08 26a & b.

1906 01 19

The Ely surveyor said he had examined the Prickwillow Road and found that for 140 chains between the Norwich gates and the Old Bank the road was badly cut up. For some months there had been exceptionally heavy traffic caused by Messrs R. Drake of Sutton's traction engines and wagons who had been making three or four journeys a week carting agricultural produce. 06 01 19

1906 03 09

A boy from Prickwillow was summoned for placing a sleeper on the railway line. He'd left Cole's farm and walked along the wire fence till he came to Palmer's crossing and went to Fryart's about a piece of bicycle, passing a pile of sleepers. Police found footprints of boots which were nailed peculiarly; these matched those the lad was wearing. He said "I did it for a lark. Don't lock me up, please". 06 03 09

1906 06 04

A Government Inspector's report into the derailment of a passenger train near Shippea Hill on April 7th concluded it was caused by unduly high speed over a portion of track under repair. At Cambridge Assizes a 15-year old boy from Prickwillow was indicted for having placed a sleeper on the railway line near Ely on the evening of March 6th. It was hit by the Norwich train and carried for a mile and a quarter 06 06 04b, 06 06 04c, d

1907 07 03

An inquest was held at the Anchor Inn, Prickwillow on the body of an eight-year old girl knocked down and killed by a train at the Mile-End crossing on her way home from school. Thirty schoolchildren used the crossing every day and to secure their safety automatic locking of the gates should be resorted to. But this would create a greater danger than at present. 07 07 03

1907 08 15

A terrible accident occurred at Prickwillow when a governess car, containing seven people, overturned and all the occupants were injured. Three were natives of the village and had hired a trap at Soham for an outing. On the return they mistakenly drove on to the old bank, at one time the main road to Ely, but now seldom used. As they attempted to turn round the horse, car and occupants went down the bank and into the dyke, a fall of quite 14 feet, being engulfed in the thick black mud. One lady is not expected to recover. 07 08 15a

1907 08 22

Ely Council heard that Burnt Fen Commissioners were about to repair the bridge on Mile-End drove and suggested it should be widened. The County Council had decided to adopt Egremont Street and Silver Street in Ely as main roads, but not Prickwillow Road because of the rolls at Prickwillow Bridge. While they remained it would never be a main road. The time had come to approach the Burnt Fen and Middle Level Commissioners to get them removed. 07 08 22

1909 06 18

PC Charles said he was concealed near the Greyhound public house at Little Wilbraham keeping watch on a group of men when one went to the pub, unlocked the door and returned with two bottles of beer. He heard the rattle of coins and somebody said 'Have you got any clods', meaning copper coins. The landlord said he lived at Prickwillow and had put in a manager, but was convicted of selling beer during prohibited hours. 09 06 18

1913 01 17

Prickwillow road needed from siding to Prickwillow,

1913 01 31

The wife of the level crossing gate keeper at Mile End, Prickwillow told the inquest that when a train left from Shippea Hill station, a bell rang in the cottage. It was a very distinct ring. The gates were both closed and nobody had the right to open them unless they called her. John Mead, G.E.R. engine driver on the express from Norwich, said as he approached the crossing he saw a horse's head coming on the railway. He sounded the whistle and no sooner had he done so than the engine struck the horse, travelling at 60 mph. The collision had killed both the horse and the driver, leaving the cart standing but upsetting the coal with which it was laden. 13 01 31 p8 CIP

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1913 01 31

The coroner reported he had already held three inquests occasioned by persons being killed by trains at the Mile End, Prickwillow crossing. The present mode of ringing of the bell on the gatekeeper's cottage as trains pass Shippea Hill station should continue and a red wooden arm, as on signals, should work automatically with the bell and be placed where it can be plainly seen by persons using the crossing. A similar system should apply when trains pass Ely northern signal-box – 13 01 31 p11 CIP

1913 02 13

Prickwillow road neglected

1913 05 30

Tramp dies at Prickwillow
Prickwillow death Pc Tingey

1913 08 29

Prickwillow water main would be laid along the north side of Prickwillow Bank with water tanks and pumps. But the source of supply – somewhere up the River Lark – was unreliable owing to the varying condition of the water and the cost was a good deal more than expected. About 120 children attended Prickwillow school and had no water except what the schoolmaster carried there. Village water contained microbes and smelt very bad but bread was made with it 13 08 29 p7 CIP

1913 08 29

Prickwillow Bridge repairs needed

1913 09 12

Prickwillow fire *

1913 09 26

Prickwillow water supply and bridge
Prickwillow bridge approach; Ely parade ground

1920 08 10

Prickwillow water scheme, commissioners criticised

1920 12 11

Prickwillow toll house let to John William Taylor in connection with the farming of the trolls as has been custom for over 10 years. Middle Level Commissions had been accustomed to let the tolls on a three years lease and the toll house was taken for the use of the collector. This was last done in 1917 and this year they decided to collect the tolls through a stoker whom they employed and required the house for him. They had two large pumping stations and sometimes needed to have both working

1922 01 04

Farm fires at Hiam's Prickwillow, Swaffham Prior, Caldecote – 22 01 04e

1922 09 21

At Ely Urban District Council the advisability of disposing of the Nutholt Close for the purposes of dwelling-houses was considered. They had a programme for 200 houses but of these 20 were erected in Ely and 8 at Stuntney - a meagre quantity. The chairman commented; "Some of the tenders for the houses to be erected on the Prickwillow site are ridiculous". Prices per pair ranged from F. Tucker of Ely at £400, whilst F. Ambrose quoted £750, Hobbs & son of Downham £906.10s.2d and F.W. Edwards of Prickwillow £1,500. A list of houses in Prickwillow to which water was supplied from the new main was laid before the meeting. The committee recommended that in all cases where there was not a sufficient supply of wholesome water on the premises that notices be served to make the necessary connections in order to obtain a supply

1924 01 12

Ely Urban District Council proposed to erect 10 houses at Prickwillow, where they were most urgently needed and 20 at Chief's Lane, Ely. The question arose as to the distance the houses would be set back from the road, taking into consideration the dust. Mr Laxton said tenants would rather have less front garden and more back to grow "taties".

1924 01 17

Isle of Ely County Council are prepared to declare the road from Ely to Prickwillow and thence to Mile End drove and Mildenhall road a main road, subject to certain improvements including the abolition of the tolls collected at Prickwillow by the Burnt Fen and Middle Fen commissioners. The tolls being discontinued it was resolved that the toll gates at Prickwillow be taken by the Superintendent and notices as to the collection of tolls be removed from the toll house.

1924 09 17

Mr E.W. Edwards and a friend were walking along the Bank when suddenly he saw the vivid reflection of the Ely fire. He remarked that it was lucky that there had been no outbreak in Prickwillow, as there had been another fire that evening at Chettisham. He had hardly finished his sentence when his companion turned and said, "There is a fire in Prickwillow. Look at the blaze". Mr Edwards would not believe it until someone rushed up and informed him that his motor works were on fire. An effort was made to get the motor vans out of the blazing building but it was found impossible to open the locked double doors.

1926 04 14

A meeting was held at Prickwillow for the purpose of inaugurating a new troop of Boy Scouts. The vicar said scouting was not new to the village, a troop having been in existence in the time of Father Kingdon, their old vicar. There was a good number of young people and it would be a good idea if their could band them together. It was said that a boy had a spice of the devil in him, but he had also a spice of an angel, and it was the object of the movement to bring the latter to the top.

1926 07 19

One of the greatest enterprises of the age in the fen district in draining 16,000 acres of land has been accomplished by the Burnt Fen Commissioners with the formal opening of the new oil power plant at the Lark Pumping Station at Prickwillow. The Blackstone engine connected to a Gwynne centrifugal pump will cost £400 a year to run, a saving of £1,000 over the old steam plant

1929 07 17

Foxton level crossing; proposed road Prickwillow to Isleham – CDN 17.7.29

1932 02 18

Ely Allotment Association complained of damage caused by 2,500 rats on Bridge Fen that had dug peas out of the ground. They made a special effort with 20 men, ferrets, dogs and guns but only managed to kill 50 of them. The rats were attracted by clumps of sugar beet tops being left but the council refuse dumps were worse than the allotments. At Prickwillow rats came from two to three miles to get to pigs, and they did not know what to do. 32 02 18 & 18a

1933 01 26

The County Council want to restrict traffic in Minster Place and The Gallery, Ely to 10 mph. This would safeguard the cathedral against vibration caused by heavy vehicles. Mr Tyndall also said his shop had suffered, as did the King's School, especially when the sugar beet lorries went past. But the A.A. said it was used by traffic from Soham to Lynn and the real remedy was an effective bye-pass and to extend Broad Street to Prickwillow Road. 33 01 26 & a

1934 07 07

Prickwillow vicar leaving – Hicks – 34 07 07

1935 05 01

Plans for the construction of new roads alongside the River Lark from Isleham to Prickwillow and from Tunnel Drove, Soham will shorten the distance to the Beet Sugar Factory by four miles. 35 05 01a

1935 05 09

A new road from Isleham alongside the River Lark to Prickwillow would benefit the whole of the parish: "It is a place of all places on earth that most people would object to live in in consequence of its situation and the road would bring Isleham out of the rut and help employment", said Coun, Moore. Half the cost would be obtained from the Ministry of Transport though there were some very light-fingered gentlemen in Parliament and when short of money they dived their hands into funds they were not entitled to. 35 05 09

1935 10 10

A hard road through the fen from Isleham to Prickwillow had become urgent owing to the Lark river bank being covered with gault by the Ouse Catchment Board, preventing its use by traffic. It had been used by people on foot or on horse and in 1788 tolls were charged at the Prickwillow end which had continued until recent years. A hamlet grew up with three public houses before 1835 and a school built in 1879. But it was a private road that could not be taken over by the County Council until it had been put in repair by the owners of the land. 35 10 14 & a

1936 05 04

The proposed road alongside the River Lark from Isleham to Prickwillow cannot be safely built owing to the leaking through the river bank. Instead a road should be constructed along

Black Drove and Black Wing Drove with a hard road along Spooner's Drove to the Fen Bank. There would be extra cost due to the need to put in four more bridges and foundations because of the peat soil. Owners felt the construction of a road away from the river was not of use and had reduced their contributions to the scheme but the top of the river bank would be gravelled to enable them to get to their houses. 36 05 04

1936 06 29

Boy Scouts and Wolf Cubs gathered a thousand strong at Ely to take part in a huge county rally. Six hundred camped over the weekend in the delightful surroundings of the Cathedral Park. The numerous tents dotted here and there among the trees provided a pleasant spectacle. Saturday brought 120 wolf cubs from Cambridge who chose the novel method of travelling by river, starting from Victoria Bridge. Amongst troops present were Prickwillow, Pampisford, Wilburton and the Whittlesford Sea Scouts 36 06 29a

1936 07 30

Harston flooding, Prickwillow and Sutton Gault bridges, musk rats, Quy Rye Ditch – 36 07 30e

1936 09 04

First ladies' fishing match at Prickwillow – photo 36 09 04c

1936 11 05

The Isle of Ely County Council approved the erection of a new bridge to carry the Peterborough-Wisbech road over the river Nene at Guyhirn. This was part of a vast scheme which will link up with the Leicester-Great Yarmouth road. At Prickwillow the Ouse Catchment Board had agreed that the new bridge need be only an inch higher than the existing one, instead of 1ft 3ins as originally contemplated. Plans were also submitted for the reconstruction of the bridge on Puntney Hill drove, part of one of the alternative routes for the proposed Isleham-Prickwillow road. 36 11 05b

1937 03 16

A great battle is going on over a 50 mile front to save the fens from serious flooding. But in the minds of the hundreds of men working on strengthening the sodden banks is the ever present question 'Will the banks hold?' Despite their efforts the Old West River at Aldreth Causeway overflowed and nine inches of water poured into Haddenham Fen causing people to leave their houses. Great anxiety was also caused when water came over the banks at Willingham and at Lt Thetford where a split occurred in a bank 37 03 16 & a photos – Prickwillow, Earith, Stretham, Ship Inn – 37 03 16c

1938 02 04

A new road linking Mildenhall and Prickwillow will probably be built in the near future to provide communications with the Sugar Beet Factory. It would metal a soft drove at Fodder Fen from West Row to the east bank of the Lark. But a new road away from the bank would be better 38 02 04 & a

1938 02 04

Councillors refused the erection of a small cycle shelter in the front garden of a house in Scroope Terrace. There were already two such shelters and it was hard to refuse another. But they had to stop somewhere. This was one of the loveliest terraces in Cambridge and should be preserved. They hoped to get the other shelters removed. There were a great number of front gardens where people would like to have sheds but would never dream of asking the council for permission. They would have many applications if they acceded to this one. 38 02 04b

1938 05 20

Car strikes pedestrian at Ely, Prickwillow Old Bank woman theft – 38 05 20a

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1938 09 15

Nearly a mile of Main Drove, Little Downham, may be metalled now the Ministry had approved a grant of 50% of the cost providing owners contribute one-third. The road would be 12 feet wide with passing places and link up with Short Drove, Pymore. If it were constructed in concrete it would shorten the work by five weeks. There is no provision in the budget but £1,400 had been provided for the proposed Isleham-Prickwillow road and there was no likelihood of this being built during the present year, Isle Councillors heard. 38 09 15

1939 01 28

The fenland flood situation is very serious, with water six feet above normal. Patrols are watching the banks day and night and additional engineers have been sent in.. At Littleport and Prickwillow waters have encompassed a number of properties and the occupants are preparing to evacuate. With further rain there would be as serious a threat of flooding as in 1937. Pumps at St Germans were operating at full throttle and Denver is pumping 11 out of 12 hours 39 01 28a

1939 02 17

An automatic machine dealer of Mill Road told the bankruptcy court he'd set up in 1934 starting with 20 machines on licensed premises. He was making a profit of £25 a week until police prohibited the machines in Cambridge and he was forced to move to other territories where profits were much lower. In 1937 he took the tenancy of the Magpie Transport Café at Shelford but it lost money. He carried on business as a bookmaker, losing £140 in one day. He kept no books. He was questioned about three machines at Prickwillow and a pawned gold ring. 39 02 17

1939 03 22

Isleham-Prickwillow road costs – 39 03 22

1943 09 28

Pte Tom Rollings of 2nd Battalion Cambridgeshire Regiment died from malaria while PoW in Japanese hands; came from Prickwillow – 43 09 28

1945 03 23

Prickwillow road needed from siding to Prickwillow,

1945 02 06

Two aircraft crash in mid-air, one fell at Putney Hill Farm near Prickwillow and killed two children – Patricia Legge and Pamela Turner and three others who in bed were injured; - Mrs E. Legge, Mrs G, Howe and Mr R Howe; thought second fell at 'The Bracks' Wicken – 45 02 06a

1945 03 16

Fine Pike. -A fine pike was landed from the waters of the Lark at Marsh's Corner, Prickwillow, on Sunday, by Mr. A. E. Meadows, of Broad Street, Ely. A number of anglers saw him land the fish, which weighed 21¼ lb. In length it was 37½ and in girth 19¾ ins.

1950 03 08

A strong attack on Ely council's housing policy is made in the Ely Rural Deanery Magazine's Prickwillow notes. It claims the housing difficulties will make it necessary for Mr W. Gathercole to give up the position of church caretaker after 20 years because the housing committee are unwilling to give them a house near the church. "It will be an injustice and scandal. The most insuperable difficulty of obtaining an organ blower will also arise, as this family supplies the organ blower. Church caretakers and organ blower are almost unobtainable these days" the article says

1954 06 03

Eastern Electricity says that more villages in the Ely area are to be connected to the public supply in the next six months. Already Mepal, Coveney, Pondersbridge and Ramsey Heights have been connected and Prickwillow, Barway and outlying parts of Haddenham and Littleport will follow. But it can only be economically justified if farmers recognise that electricity be used to the fullest extent as an aid to production and not just for lighting, radio and television. It increases their output and hastens the day when electricity can be made available throughout the whole of the countryside.

1955 10 24

Ely Sailing Club's timber-built headquarters on the Prickwillow Road was completely destroyed by fire together with chairs and crockery which had been loaned for a supper to celebrate the end of the sailing season. This is the second time the club has lost its building. During the bad weather of 1949-50 it disappeared through the subsidence of the bank on which it was standing overlooking Roswell Pits 55 10 24d

1956 02 21

The names of Cambridgeshire civilian casualties from the last war are included in a roll of honour which was handed over for safe-keeping in Westminster Abbey. It has been placed in a memorial case within a few paces of the Unknown Warrior's Grave and a page will be turned daily. It includes the names of T.R. Samsen who was killed near Oakington, Pamela Turner, an evacuee of Old Bank Prickwillow, Fred Stanley of the Hone Guard who was killed at Pampisford and Albert Stones of March. 56 02 21a & b

1958 03 07

An act of bravery by two schoolboys in rescuing a child from the River Lark at Prickwillow was recognised by the presentation of Royal Humane Society certificates. John Brooks and Neville Benstead of Lark Bank plunged in to the river to save a five-year-old boy and Derek Lock applied artificial respiration on the bank side. He had never been taught to do that but had read it in a comic. 58 03 07

1959 09 11

Prickwillow bridge rebuilding – 59 09 11b

1961 12 12

Ely planning proposals envisage a new bypass to the west of the city and the allocation of 33 acres of land for industrial purposes. Silver Street would be widened and the present route past the Cathedral closed to through traffic. There should be a new road linking Lynn and Prickwillow roads to provide direct connection with the sugar beet factory. About 1,000 people leave Ely to work elsewhere and full benefit is not taken of the numerous visitors. The plan set out to remedy these deficiencies. 61 12 12

1962 03 02

Work is being carried out on building a new bridge over the River Lark at Prickwillow, replacing an earlier one which was situated on a double bend. When completed the bridge will form part of a straight road over the river. 62 03 02b

1962 08 25

An Ely couple and their six children have been brought together under one roof again after the husband, wife and two youngest children spent the past week living in a small tent on the side of the road. But their new house is to be demolished to make way for a new old people's estate on the corner of Downham and West Fen Roads, Ely. Mr Frederick Goldsmith and his family lost their home when they were evicted from a tied cottage on a Prickwillow farm. Since then Mr Goldsmith has biked 1,000 miles in search of a new job 62 08 25

1964 05 29

Prickwillow Baptist Church organ should be completely rebuilt by the minister, Rev Christian Evans who has already installed an electric blower to save having it pumped manually. The 150-year-old pipe organ will be moved from its present position in the gallery to the front of the church downstairs. He has spent two years building an electronic organ which stands in the Manse. The keyboard comes from an old American organ, an old dining table forms the cabinet work and it has 50 wireless valves. The speaker is housed in a five-foot tall sewer pipe. 64 05 29b

1969 10 30

Hiam's farms at Shippea Hill, Pratts Farm Prickwillow, Ape's Hall Littleport and Stretham not sold – 69 10 30

1978 10 11

British Rail seems rather attached to the traditional style level crossing gate. Each time one is smashed to pieces by a train at Great Shelford they replace it with a new one. The crossing is a traditional manned gate system – branded by a Government report in 1968 as a 'creaking anachronism'. Since then there have been level crossing accidents at Shelford in January 1969 and October 1971, Longstanton, Whittlesey, Prickwillow and Brinkley Road crossing near Newmarket. The sight of BR workmen installing yet another manned gate at Gt Shelford has done little to allay the public's fears of their safety.

1979 05 18

Farmers were weighting up the damage caused by the worst fen blow for several years. Fierce winds whipped up the light soil but they were highly localised. The worst affected areas were at Prickwillow, Stretham, Coveney & Chatteris where there were dust clouds all around but fortunately a cloudburst dampened the fields after an hour's blowing. Elsewhere orchards took a bad buffeting. A fallen tree blocked the Harlton to Haslingfield road for several hours and another fell at Cottenham. An invalid carriage was blown from the A14 at Papworth and two motorcycles collided in the strong winds.

1980 05 22

When Margot and Derek Andrews gave up their teaching jobs to set up as potters at Prickwillow they didn't set out to make a fortune. But they have achieved their own independent world where they make a living by their craftwork. Now after five years they find that most of their orders come from people who look around the workshops; a number arrive on boating holidays and more come in groups in the evening. This is something they never originally envisaged and they now serve cups of coffee to visitors. 80 05 22b

1982 09 04

Nearly 100 banner-waving Prickwillow parents joined forces at Old Bank and, led by a tractor and trailer carrying a replica of their village school, sang as they marched to Ely to protest at plans for its closure. They are unhappy about the idea of four-and-five-year-old children travelling four miles to school and claim savings in running costs will be eaten up by the price of transport. 82 09 04

1983 11 17

Sir - Life in Burnt Fen is not very rich these days. There is no work in the area. The nearest shop is 4½ miles away at Prickwillow and the school is due to close with the children bussed to Littleport. To get to the doctor's surgery people have to take the train from Shippea Hill station to Ely. There is no village hall, no church, chapel, nor even a post office. It hasn't a pub any more and there are no clubs. Is it any wonder that half the people living in the council houses want to change homes – Harry Bye 83 11 17 p16

1983 11 19

A big new housing estate with more than 200 houses, bungalows and flats is being planned for a site off Prickwillow Road, Ely. The developers, Barretts, say it will consist of a range of homes from first-time buyer to four-bedroomed houses with two bathrooms and take three years to complete. If approved it will be the biggest in Ely for years – larger than the Kingfields at Lynn Road where J.F. Bennett from Lakenheath is building 200 houses as part of a phased development which started a couple of years ago. 83 11 19 p7

1988 06 16

Tenants living in six council houses at Main Street, Prickwillow are finding their homes literally disappearing into the fens. They were constructed in the 1930s and the whole block including single storey extensions built in 1970 has tilted leaving the rear some 10 inches below the level of the front. The homes are not unsafe but the sloping floors are a significant inconvenience. Now those wanting to move will be given priority treatment and the vacant houses will only be let on a temporary basis to homeless families. 88 06 16a